

Woman's Work

SUGGESTIONS.

Miss C. L. Campbell.

In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. Phil. 4:5.

An Invitation and a Notice.

Take a small calendar pad, and separate the months, using the one you need, possibly October; paste this in the center of a correspondence card. Make a circle with red pencil or ink around the day of your meeting.

Write above your calendar some appropriate thought, some Scripture text on missions, some great missionary saying; or this:

Our Missionary Society—What You Can Do to Help.

Join us, and bring others.

Attend meetings.

Subscribe for "Survey."

Subscribe for "Prayer Calendar."

Below the calendar give place and hour of meeting, and the names of those in charge, also the name of the speaker if you have secured one, or mention any striking feature which you have planned.

If your society is a large one, and you can afford, these cards might be printed, but if some lukewarm members can be interested by being brought together to make these, you have gained much.

Of course, you might have the whole year's program so arranged, but a novel invitation each month will be more forceful.

Calendar for Local Societies, 1917-1918.

Organization of Home Mission Study Classes....First Week in October
Self-Denial Week for Home Missions, November 18th-25th
Organization of Foreign Mission Study Classes,

First Week in January
Self-Denial Week for Foreign Missions January 17th-31st
Day of Prayer for the Youth in our Schools and Colleges,

February, 24th
Survey Week March 10th 17th
March meeting of the societies; close annual report of societies and forward promptly to your Presbyterian secretary. Elect officers for the ensuing year. Outline a budget for the gifts of the society for the coming year.

"Plan Your Work and Work Your Plan."

Literature concerning all the above items sent free on request, by The Woman's Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church, U. S., Peachtree and Tenth Streets, Atlanta, Georgia.

Missions in Sunday-school.

For many weeks the children have been getting impressions concerning missions. Is it not time for expression, even in a very simple way?

Ask them to bring used picture post cards, small pictures and colored paper dolls cut from fashion sheets.

One missionary writes, "I could use hundreds." Another writes of paper dolls, "We use these as promotions in school."

Ask your postmaster how to mail them to foreign countries; or you may send them to the Presbyterian of the South.

A Message to Virginia Presbyterian Secretaries of Foreign Missions.

Please send me by return mail a mention of that thing in your work

which has been your greatest encouragement and joy, that I may tell it to others at the Synodical for their help.

And, also, tell me of your greatest discouragement, or hindrance, that the effort may be made at this same meeting to find how some one else got through that same hard place; and I will tell you.

This is your work; please help both sides of it.

Carrie Lee Campbell,
Syn. Sec. For. Missions.

Richmond, Va.

Wanted—A Typewriter.

A noble college girl, who has given herself to mountain mission work, has so enlarged her work that her correspondence is becoming unwieldy. She was overheard to say, "If I only had a typewriter, my time could count for so much more."

Maybe you have one not being used, or know where you could get one.

Just drop a line to this column and the location of the need will be sent you, and instructions for shipping.

She has gone into the hard place; let's "hold the ropes" for her.

"ALL READY."

By Miss Caroline E. Caldwell.

Recently a friend wrote me of a small prayer-group which she said was a great blessing to the members. They had been meeting daily for several weeks, for an hour together with God; and she wrote, "We have had many problems to face and we feel we have had several answers all ready."

I feel sure "already" is what was meant, but is there not a deeper truth in the "all ready"? Has not our Father stored in heaven many gifts "all ready" for us? The answers to many perplexing problems, perhaps, and untold other treasures that you need and I need? I think so.

In Luke 18, Jesus is giving his disciples a lesson on prayer, and uses the seemingly contradictory expressions, "long-suffering" and "speedily." When a child of God asks for answers to life's problems, or for any of the things a child of God may ask for, can we believe that He does not heed, because we do not see the answer at once, that He did not mean the promises given us through Jesus? No, He has the answer "all ready" for us, and it lies with us only to ask for them, and to fulfil our part in the prayer-promises of Jesus. A gathering together of these prayer-promises will give us a crown of precious jewels, each one shining forth with a blessed truth concerning prayer. Here Christ himself is our teacher, and will take the mystery of prevailing prayer and show it to us, and the Holy Spirit himself will be our guide and interpreter. Let us study that we may fulfil our part, that we may show ourselves approved unto God, that we may rightly divide this word of truth, that greater blessings may come into our lives!

God is long-suffering over us; He longs to give us speedily those things which we know He has "all ready" for us. Let us do our share. "Real faith can never be disappointed."

Edisto Island, S. C.

It was only a glad "Good morning!"
As she passed along the way,
But it spread the morning's glory
Over the livelong day.

THE PRAYER MEETING

A PRAYING CHURCH.

Week Beginning October 7, 1916.
Acts 4:31-33.

The apostles knew the value of prayer. It might have been said that the Saviour had already promised to be with them always, and he had also promised to send them the Holy Spirit. He had fulfilled this last promise in a marvellous way on the day of Pentecost. What more could they wish? What they were praying for the day of which our text treats we do not know. It seems probable that they were asking for a renewed and fuller manifestation of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Every Christian needs constantly to make this prayer. God's Spirit is always with us, but prayer puts us into a state or condition in which He can manifest Himself to us and in us. So that in praying for a manifestation of His presence we are in reality bringing about a real change in ourselves.

There are some things worth noticing about the statements made in these verses. The first thing we notice is that the Church was engaged in a prayer meeting, and that they were all met together. There are some people who seem to think that just as much good can be accomplished by praying alone as by meeting together for prayer. Private prayer is right, but it cannot take the place of united prayer. Our Saviour promises a special blessing where two or three are gathered together in prayer. And there is a certain inspiration in the thought that others are making the same petition that we are, and we become more earnest in our prayers and we have more faith that they will be answered. We may have some doubt about our prayers being acceptable to God; but, if the whole Church is praying, we may be sure that the prayers of some of them will be heard; and then we shall receive the blessing.

These Christians did not simply agree to pray at the same time and for the same object. They met together to pray.

It is often said that the prayer meeting service is the measure of the spiritual life of the church. The life of that church was at a high state. Ofttimes to-day we find a church in a very low state spiritually, and when this is the case the prayer meetings are very poorly attended.

Another thing to be noticed is that they were of one heart and one soul. They had one purpose and one aim. There were no divisions among them. "In union there is strength," and that is nowhere more true than in the church. A union of hearts, and purpose and prayer will accomplish great things.

The Church generally has not begun to realize the power of prayer. It is said that "prayer is the power that moves the arm that rules the world." What a wonderful thing it is that God gives us the means of securing from Him what we need.

If a church is spiritually cold, if it is not growing as it ought, if it is not reaching the unsaved and bringing them to Christ, it will be well for it to look well to its prayer life.

In addition to the regular prayer services of the church, it used to be the custom, at least of the more devout of the congregation, to assemble in the church a little while before the service and spend the time in silent prayer for God's blessing upon the service. If this were generally done, a

wonderful difference would be seen. The preacher would preach better sermons and the people would hear better, and greater results would follow.

The results of the prayers of these early Christians were very evident. They were filled with the Holy Ghost. This easily accounts for the other results that followed. If we receive the Holy Ghost into our hearts and let him have his dominion in them, he will direct our lives and fill our hearts with earnest desires and purposes to accomplish his will concerning us.

One of the results of this filling with the Holy Ghost was that "they spake the word of God with boldness." That is they preached salvation publicly and privately. Their enemies had forbidden them to do this, but they obeyed God rather than men.

Another result of the filling with the Holy Ghost is that he took all selfishness out of their hearts and made them willing to share what they had with others. Prayer may prove very costly to him who offers it. He may find that he will have to do a good deal himself in bringing about the answers to his prayers.

The result of their prayers, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, their boldness, their unselfishness had its effect upon the people about them. The apostles testified with great power that Jesus had risen from the dead and so became the Saviour of sinners.

What the apostles showed in their witness-bearing the others showed in their lives, for great grace was upon them all.

A praying church will be a witnessing church, a witnessing church will be a growing church and a growing church will be a soul saving church. Let us all pray for the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

RETURNING FROM CAPTIVITY.

Oct. 14, 1917. Ezra 1.

Golden Text: "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad." Ps. 126:3.

Belshazzar had been king of Babylon, but the Persians, under Cyrus, had besieged the city, and, on the night that he gave a great feast, when the handwriting appeared on the wall, the city was captured. Cyrus then became the king.

More than a hundred years before this time God foretold (Isa. 44:28; 45:1-6) that He would use Cyrus for the deliverance of His people. It is remarkable that God calls Cyrus by name, long before he was born, and that He calls him, a heathen, "My shepherd," and "His anointed."

The Persian empire at this time was the most extensive and powerful on earth. All the accounts that we have of Cyrus, in the Bible as well as elsewhere, show him to have been a far better man than most of the kings of his day.

It is interesting to notice that the last two verses of Second Chronicles are almost identical with the first four of Ezra, with which our lesson begins.

The writer of this book says that the course about to be taken by Cyrus was in fulfillment of God's prophecy given through Jeremiah.

During the first year of his reign in Babylon, Cyrus issued a decree that was very remarkable for his day. He proclaimed his belief that "the Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth." How he came to this decision is not known.

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